

Calne Without Parish Council
Update from Highways, Transport and Road Safety Working Group

The Highways, Transport and Road Safety Working Group was established by resolution of the Council on 8th November 2021. The Working Group has met four times and currently comprises Cllrs Barnes, Rees, Robbins, Deedigan, MacInnes and Price.

This report sets out progress made over the past 10 months.

1. Road Safety Feasibility Study

The Group has supervised the execution of Stage 2 of the Road Safety Feasibility Study, including attending three workshops with our Consultant, Entran, over the course of May through to July.

Entran have now completed the Stage 2 Reports for three of the four clusters of short-listed sites, which will be considered at the Parish Council Meeting on 12th September. These clusters are:

- Area 1 – Derry Hill and Studley – Sites 1/4 (Church Road), 2 (Studley Lane) and 5 (Church Road j/w A342).
- Area 3 – HGV Sites – Sites 2 (Studley Lane & Norley Lane), Site 7 (Sandy Lane) and 16 (Old Derry Hill), and including 16b (safety barrier at junction of A342/A4).
- Area 4 – Wider Area – Sites 6 (Ratford) and 9 & 10 (Broads Green and Stockley).

Workshops have been held for each of these three areas to review and refine proposals.

Area 2 along the A4 (Sites 13 & 14) has been delayed pending completion of a Speed Limit Review along the A4 between Forest Gate and Black Dog Hill. This is being undertaken by Wiltshire Council and we have been advised that results are expected in October.

2. Speed Indicator Devices

Two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) have been procured. These may be deployed for periods not exceeding 8 weeks at locations conforming to criteria established by Wiltshire Council.

The first deployments have been completed on Devizes Road and Stockley Lane. The SIDs will subsequently be redeployed to other locations including Church Road, Sandy Lane and the London Road.

3. Community Speedwatch

Four volunteers have completed Community Speedwatch Training. Cllr Rees is in the process of confirming locations with Wiltshire Police and confirming a volunteer to take on the role of Coordinator.

4. Lansdowne Arms Bus Stop

Agreements have been obtained from both the Bowood Estate and Wadworth Brewery for improvement work to the bus stop. We are currently waiting for an updated quotation for the work.

5. CALW65 Derry Hill and Studley Footpath/Cycle Way

Wiltshire Council have assigned an engineer to this and are currently waiting on completion of a topographical survey (part funded by CWPC). Cllr Rees is investigating an issue over the barrier to the Lansdowne Hall car park.

6. Sustrans Route 403 Cycle Way

We have convened a cross council Working Group, reporting to the Calne Area LHFIFG (Local Highways & Footpaths Improvement Group), with meetings held in May, July and August. The Group currently comprises representatives from Calne Without Parish Council (Cllrs Barnes and Price), Calne Town Council, Bremhill Parish Council, Cherhill Parish Council, Sustainable Calne, Chippenham Cycle Development Network and Sustrans.

The Group is currently working on:

- Identifying and mapping the issues along the route.
- Monitoring developments with the Chippenham to Calne section. Wiltshire Council have commissioned Sustrans to undertake a feasibility study on this section, particularly in respect of the issue with 5-year leases.
- Improvements to signage at various locations.
- Realignment of the route to the east of Yatesbury onto an existing byway.
- Improvements to the section between Low Lane and the Compton Bassett Road.
- Plating over the cattle grid at the exit from Castlefields Park to address a specific accessibility issue.

7. Planters

Cllr Robbins is working on a plan for planters, in conjunction with the Derry Hill and Studley Gardening Club and Calne Mens Shed.

8. Highway Improvement Request Forms

The Working Group has reviewed Highway Improvement Request Forms received from local residents and, where appropriate, promoted improvements to the Council and Calne Area LHFIFG. These include:

Signage at CALW38 crossing of highway south of Blackland

This was a request for the installation of warning signs on the approaches to the point where Bridleway CALW38 crosses the highway between Blackland Crossroads and the North Wilts Golf Club. This was considered by the Council in March and a request for appropriate signage submitted to LHFIFG.

Wiltshire Council's officers have considered the request and propose the installation of horse and rider warning signs on the approaches to the crossing point, at an estimated cost of £1,200. (See appended Briefing Note.)

Recommendation

That the Council approves a contribution of 30% from CWPC towards the cost of improved signage at the approaches to the crossing of CALW38 with the highway south of Blackland Crossroads at an estimated cost of £360.

Mile Elm

This was a request for improvements to be made on the A3102 Mile Elm Road, at a sharp bend near Wayside, Mile Elm House and Milestone Cottage, following a serious accident. This was considered by Council in March and a request for further safety improvement measures, including a speed limit review, submitted to LHFIG.

Wiltshire Council's officers have investigated and reported to LHFIG that: "A site inspection has identified potential upgrade of Advance Warning Signs, Chevrons and marker posts / bollards. Although no design work has taken place at this time, a sum of approximately £5,000 is likely to cover any improvements, inclusive of traffic management requirements."

Recommendation

That the Council approves a contribution of 30% from CWPC towards the cost of improvements to advance warning signs, chevrons and marker posts / bollards, at Mile Elm, at an estimated cost of up to £1,500, subject to approval of final proposals.

Abberd Lane

This was a request for a reduction in Speed Limit in Abberd Lane. This is a private road and bridleway. The request was considered by Council in April and it was resolved to submit the highways improvement form to LHFIG with a request for an investigation of a possible solution.

This was considered by LHFIG in April where it was agreed that it would be more productive for officers and a parish representative to meet with Hills to address the issues arising from speeding HGVs on a bridleway, with more appropriate signing and instructions to HGV drivers.

CLlr John Barnes
Highways, Transport and Road Safety Working Group